

IN THE MISSION FIELD.

NOTES OF THE WORK IN THE BY
WAYS AND DARK PLACES.

Most of the Chinese have no religion at all—The Buddhists—Vastness of the Field in the Flowery Kingdom—In Abyssinia.

Rev. Dr. Happer, of Canton, has estimated that the Buddhists of the Chinese empire, instead of numbering three or four hundred millions, do not exceed seventy-five millions. Rev. Dr. Nevins, of North China, in answer to the question, "What proportion of the people are Buddhists?" replies that there are comparatively few, aside from the monks, who would call themselves by that name, if, indeed, they even knew what was meant by the question. The great mass are nothing at all by self designation; they have no religion whatever, except as occasion seems to require. When they are in distress they go to a Confucian or Buddhist or a Taoist temple, whichever may be convenient, or most strongly recommended, just as men try a variety of nostrums for bodily ailments. The most common resort in every day life is to the god of wealth, or to jugglers, who control the funghuay, or the influences of good luck. There is no greater sham in our day than the assumption that the masses of the people in a country like China or Siam or Ceylon are in any intelligent sense Buddhists. The proportions of devil worship and serpent worship are probably greater now than in former days, for everywhere modern Buddhism is in a state of decline and decay.

Dr. Arthur Mitchell writes: "Central China is a field which I never before half appreciated. It is amazing; it almost passes belief. Whole numbers of cities there are yet within the oldest field; cities of from 75,000 to 300,000 population, in which there is not one Christian missionary or laborer of any name, or in which there is to be found only one native helper, lonely and feeble. * * * From Hang Chow to Shanghai, one of the longest routes, I traveled in much less than twenty-four hours in a little steam launch, by continuous canals. I was absolutely awe struck and dumb, as I steamed, even on that short sail, past city after city, great and populous, one of which was a walled city of 300,000 souls, without one missionary of any Christian denomination whatever, and without so much as a native Christian helper or teacher of any kind. What makes the condition of things more oppressive and burdensome to one's heart is the fact that this is one of the most accessible regions on the face of the earth. * * * The strong position Italy now occupies at Massaua, on the Red sea, its military strength, its alliance with King Menelek, its rising colony at Assab, all inspire the hope that Abyssinia and the Galla country may be speedily opened up to the gospel. The past labors of the C. M. S. since 1830 in these regions are well known. Gobat, Krapf, Isenberg were among its faithful agents. These were, however, gradually driven out through religious intrigue and the violence of King Theodore. There remain, however, valuable translations, such as those in the Amharic, Tigre and Galla tongues—the last the laborious work of Dr. Krapf. There are still also fragments of missions among the Falashas, in the Shoa country, and there is the Swedish mission at Massaua, etc., which Gen. Gordon so generously supported. It is said that Russia also is to establish a consulate and to send a mission. It is to be hoped that evangelical missions will not be slow to avail themselves of this open door.—Christian at Work.

A Great Man.

The Rev. Dr. Broad recently related the following incident during a Sabbath school talk in Detroit:

For many years an old man used to sweep the street crossings near the houses of parliament for gratuitous pennies. One day he was absent. Upon inquiry he was found by a missionary in a little attic chamber barely furnished with cot and stool.

"You are lonely here," the missionary said. "Has any one called upon you?"

"Oh, yes," he replied, "several persons have called—Mr. Gladstone for one. He called and read to me."

"Mr. Gladstone called? And what did he read?"

"He sat on that stool there and read the Bible to me."

What a beautiful position! The greatest statesman in the world sitting on a stool in an attic reading the word of God to a street sweeper! Great men lose none of their greatness by kindness to God's poor.—Our Church Homes.

A Real Hero.

The Rev. John G. Paton, missionary at the New Hebrides, where he has so successfully labored, was, some time ago, the recipient from a Young Men's Christian association of a small donation for his mission. Lately a letter was received by the donors from Mr. Paton, in which he stated he had left his now Christianized field to visit Australia to raise the funds necessary to send missionaries to the 30,000 cannibals yet on the island of Aniwa. His letter so stirred up the members of the association that in eight days they sent Mr. Paton £53 toward his scheme of planting missionaries on every island of the New Hebrides. This fund, thus started, is to be pushed and called the "John G. Paton Mission Fund."

RELIGIOUS NOTES.

A movement is on foot to build a Methodist Episcopal church at the foot of Mount Ararat, in Armenia.

The Swedish Presbyterian church at Ashtabula Harbor, N. Y., has voted to join the Congregational body.

The Hanson Place Methodist church, of Brooklyn, Rev. Amos B. Kendig, D. D., has a membership of over 2,000.

The Canadian Methodist conference has authorized the establishment of a Methodist sisterhood for church work and evangelization.

The proposed new house of worship for the Presbyterian church of Allegheny, Pa., will cost more than \$75,000, all of which is said to be available.

Commissioner Coombs, leader of the Salvation Army in Australia, recently sent word to Gen. Booth that if he (the general) would name the new country in which he desired to commence army work Australia would furnish all the men, women and money necessary for the undertaking.

For about ten years the Presbyterian church of England has provided for the wants of its sons and daughters in Cambridge by weekly services, at which most of the leading Presbyterian ministers of Scotland, England and Ireland have at one time or another officiated, and a few days since they took the further step of laying the foundation stone of a new church. The stone was laid by Sir George Bruce, to whose efforts in enlisting sympathy and raising money the cause there owes its existence.

The Sing Sing Baptist church will celebrate its one hundredth anniversary on Nov. 12 of the present year. Great preparations are being made to observe in a fitting manner the completed century of its history. Among other important considerations is the effort to pay off the balance of the indebtedness, amounting to \$16,000, the church having a laudable ambition to commence the second century of its existence free from debt.

BENEVOLENCE IN CHICAGO.

A Splendid Array of Charitable Institutions in the Windy City.

In view of the unhandsome things which are sometimes said about the city of Chicago, it is rather interesting to find The New York Tribune making the following pleasing remarks about our great western city: "It is claimed for Chicago that in proportion to its population it has more benevolent societies than any other city in the world; that the percentage of its dependent classes is less than in any other great city; that there are only two other cities in the country as well supplied with Sunday schools, and, finally, that its Newberry Free library started with a fund of \$3,000,000, the largest ever given a free library. Besides this library the late Mr. Crerar left more than \$1,000,000 for another, and, in addition, the City Library has an income of nearly \$100,000 from taxation. The city appropriates one-third of its revenues to the public schools, and during the past year its citizens raised \$475,000 for the Chicago university and \$300,000 for the Lake Forest university. The McCormicks have given nearly \$1,000,000 for theological education, and not long ago Mr. Moody easily raised \$250,000 in Chicago for his training school. In view of all this it might possibly be advisable for the humorists to stop manufacturing squibs about Chicago's pork and lard. She is a city of which all Americans, New Yorkers included, can be justly proud."

The Established Church.

The assembly of the Established Church of Scotland, at its recent meeting in Edinburgh, reported the following statistics: Income, £354,480, an increase of nearly £50,000. During the year 87,285 new communicants had been received into the church, the clear increase over the whole membership being 6,386. The report on foreign missions was encouraging. It stated that 1,146 persons had been baptized in the mission field in 1889, a number exceeding by several hundreds the admissions of any previous year. The income had amounted to £22,421, an increase of £6,372 on the amount subscribed during the previous year.

Religious Services at the World's Fair.

Rev. David Utter, of Chicago, makes the following proposition in regard to the World's fair: "There should be on the fair grounds a great tabernacle, wherein 20,000 people might assemble. This could be used week days as a concert hall, but Sundays it should be used as a great temple for the religiously inclined of all faiths. The services might go on all day. Say at 9 o'clock Sunday morning a representative Scandinavian minister might preach, and the hymns, prayers and all be in that language; then at 11 o'clock there might be an English preacher; at 2 o'clock there could be a French service, and so on."

Mr. Spurgeon's Generosity.

The London Daily News has this good record concerning Mr. Spurgeon: "A gentleman in a Midland town, dying recently, left the bulk of his fortune to the pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle. But the deceased had relatives ill provided for, and the trustees resolved to put their case before the preacher. They saw him at his house at Norwood, with the result that Mr. Spurgeon placed the property in their hands for distribution among the needy relatives of the testator."

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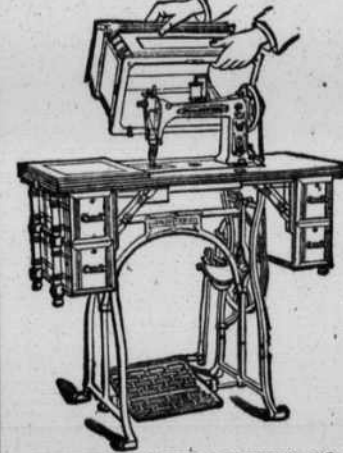
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